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Carnahan Will Question Secretary Clinton, Secretary Gates Tomorrow

(WASHINGTON, DC) - President Obama tonight addressed the nation from West Point, outlining a new strategy for deployment and exit from Afghanistan to help secure the region and combat global terrorism. Congressman Russ Carnahan released the following statement after the speech:

"Tonight, the President outlined a new strategy that is tough, smart, and comprehensive. It is a strategy that is worthy of our values and worthy of the brave men and women on the front lines fighting and sacrificing to uphold those values.

"I was encouraged to hear that along with a clear military strategy that will stabilize Afghanistan, this new approach will also include a serious civilian strategy to hold the Afghan government accountable and a partnership strategy with Pakistan to make the entire region more secure and bring al Qaeda to justice. It is this comprehensive approach that will allow us to begin a phased withdrawal that brings our troops home.

"As the President said, we cannot ignore the price of these wars. We must balance this effort with the significant demands of our economic crisis and other international pressures.

"And we must insist on accountability. We have a responsibility to service members and to taxpayers of this country to make sure that we have a strict accounting of how resources are being spent. We demanded it during the last administration, and it is only proper to do so now."

- Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3)

Tomorrow, Congressman Carnahan will ask tough questions about the new Afghanistan strategy as Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Admiral Michael Mullen testify before the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Carnahan is a member of Foreign Affairs Committee and Vice Chairman of the International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight Subcommittee that has jurisdiction on oversight with operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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